

USSA Officials Gather

BY DAVE ANDERTON

Vave Editor

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United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) officials and government leaders gathered at Soldier Hollow Friday for an introductory tour, part of the organization's annual congress held in Park City last week.

Five U.S. Team cross-country racers were present: Nina Kemppel, Marcus Nash, Justin Wadsworth, Patrick Weaver, and Andrew Johnson. Becky Cott, of the Canadian team also showed up.

The athletes are preparing for this January's Nationals.

Wadsworth described Soldier Hollow's trails as "hard," however, he said the venue's hills would be a strength to American racers.

"It gives Americans the advantage with a tougher downhill, combined with altitude," he said.

Wadsworth, 31, of Bend, Ore., said his favorite part of the venue is on the south end, where the trails become steep-

But the most welcome news the evening came from

New Training Center Envisioned

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William Marolt, president and CEO of USSA, who said he envisions establishing a residence program in Summit or Wasatch County where elite athletes and coaches can stay.

"This is the greatest Winter Sports training area in all the world," Marolt said, who added that the center would be like a small campus offering training and resources for 200 top athletes.

Soldier Hollow will be the busiest venue of the 2002 Games. The \$8 million spent to improve the venue is approximately one-third of the cost of Nagano's Nordic venue.

Other officials included John Aalberg, Salt Lake Organizing Committee director of cross-country; John Fowler, Gov. Mike

Leavitt's Olympic liaison officer; Wasatch County Olympic Coordinator Bob Mathis; State Rep. David Ure; Luke Bodensteiner, SLOC board member; Robyn Pearson, economic and development director for Wasatch County; and Robert Garff, SLOC Chairman.

"I'm sure you will agree we saved the best for last," said Randy Dryer, chairman of the Utah Athletic Foundation. "This venue will become the signature visual image of 2002, but we will have failed if we don't preserve the venue's legacy."

Dryer mentioned three key areas needed for the venue's success: world-class facilities, a financial plan in place before 2002, and public support combined with the long-term commitment and support of USSA.

V-Chip Will Help

by The Federal Communications Commission

"V for Victory" was once a popular slogan. Now, "V for V-chip" may herald another victory—a victory to help parents protect their children from violent and sexually suggestive TV shows.

The V-chip is a device built into television sets that allows parents to block shows they do not want their children to see. The V-chip works in conjunction with the voluntary ratings system designed by the television industry. The first V-chip equipped TV sets are in stores now.

FCC Commissioner Gloria Tristani, chair of the Commission's V-chip Task Force,

spend in the classroom.

"Much of what they watching is violent. By the time they complete elementary school, children have witnessed a 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence."

She noted that no parent possibly know what's on TV the time and, in many cases, children are in single parent households or households where the parents work.

"These parents want to deserve the ability to protect their children as much as parents who are able to closely monitor their children's viewing habits," said.

The V-chip will give parents a modern tool to help raise their children in the modern world.

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